



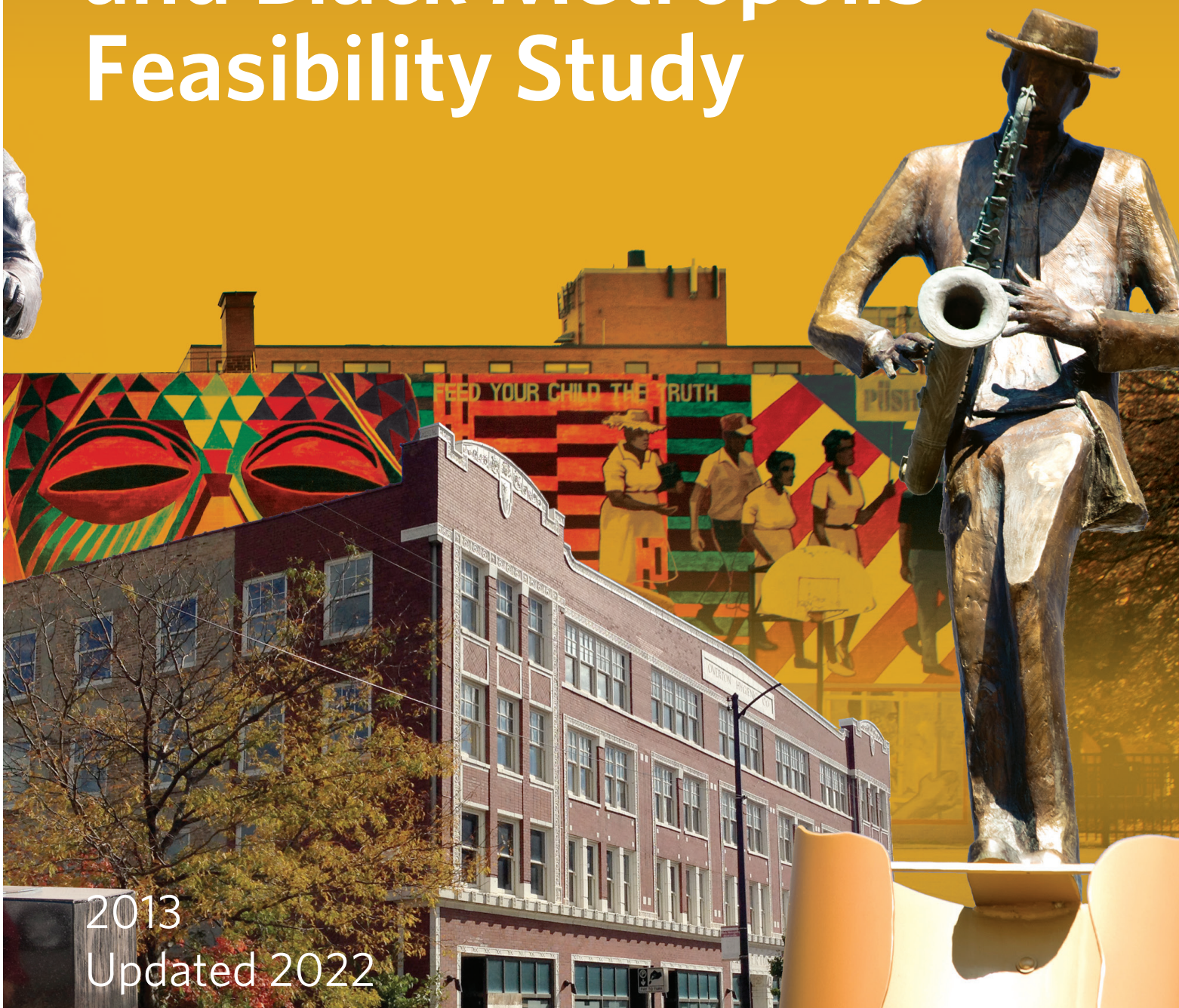
Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning



Bronzeville  
Community  
Development  
Partnership

*Creating A New Promise*

# Great Migration and Black Metropolis Feasibility Study



2013  
Updated 2022

# A Timely Update

## Our Case for Designation

*Unless the lion learns to write his own story, the hunter will always be the hero*  
African Proverb

The Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area (BMNHA) will tell the story of The Great Migration to the entire world. We have a compelling story to tell. We do it daily. We share it on our tours and in our community interactions. We reach out to the city and shout it to our young people who need to know where they came from.

The story is about the growth from what was first called “the Black Belt” in a restricted, segregated area, to one that developed into a thriving “Black Metropolis.” Creative and intellectual leaders documented this development in scholarly works, as well as fiction, poetry, theater, art, dance, and music. Foremost is the seminal 1945 work by St. Clair Drake and Horace Cayton, *Black Metropolis A Study of Negro Life in a Northern City*. As Richard Wright wrote in the introduction, “I went to Chicago as a migrant from Mississippi. And there in that great iron city, that impersonal, mechanical city, amid the steam, the smoke, the snowy winds, the blistering suns; there in that self-conscious city, that city so deadly dramatic and stimulating, we caught whispers of the meaning that life could have, and were pushed and pounded by facts much too big for us.”

Several other brilliant and scholarly studies trace the culture and community of Black Chicago, including University of Chicago’s Adam Green’s *Selling the Race: Culture, Community and Black Chicago*, which shows how Black Chicagoans joined the Renaissance usually attributed to Harlem. Adding to this are the essays in *The Black Chicago Renaissance*, edited by Northwestern University’s Darlene Clark Hine and John McCluskey, Jr. that give a bigger insight into the development of the culture of Bronzeville. There are so many examples of the documented history of this great community, including the story of the *Defender* newspaper whose reach was local, national and international. This reach was reciprocal and adds to the wealth we have to share and what will draw tourism to the Heritage Area from far and wide.

Writers Andrew Abbott and Jolyon Wurr in the Encyclopedia of Chicago note that social scientists consider Chicago to be the “most studied city.” The result is a deep and growing body of historic works, social history, studies of urban policy, which provide a multi-faceted landscape of interpretive material on how the Great Migration of Black people from the south to Chicago transformed not only this city but transformed American Culture. This is a story that





has been long neglected, erased, and buried but that deserves to be told in every possibly manner, in every last corner of the Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area. Now is the time to grant this important historic, cultural and natural resource official designation.

## Background

In 2013 the Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission (Commission), the Bronzeville Community Development Partnership (the Partnership) and its partners submitted a completed feasibility study to the National Park Service for the designation of a National Heritage Area focused on the Great Migration. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) assisted with the development of the original study and this update. We also gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the City of Chicago via its Department of Housing and Economic Development, and the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Planning and Development in the development of the original study. It has been nearly ten years since the submission of the 2013 Feasibility Study and so much has happened to advance the discussion of the Great Migration and its impact on American Culture. Consequently, this update to the study was warranted.

## The Original Study

The original 2013 feasibility study is attached to this update section. The 2013 document follows the guidelines for studies published at the time including the following elements: executive summary, introduction, history and contributions, themes, affected environment, management alternatives, application of interim NHA criteria, vision statement, impact assessment, nationally distinctive landscapes, community engagement, funding considerations, partnership commitments, House and Senate resolutions, BMNHA Steering Committee, literature review, IDNR references, and a description of the proposed project boundaries. An extensive appendix identifies assets in the study area by theme, civic engagement and public involvement, funding alternatives, partner organizations, a copy of House Resolution 5505 (from 2008) and Senate Joint Resolution 0067 from 2010, the Steering Committee members, a literature review, and IDNR references.

## The Study Area

The Black Metropolis study area is located in the greater Bronzeville community of the City of Chicago, approximately five miles south of downtown. The general boundaries are 18th Street to the North, 71st Street to the South, Lake Michigan to the East, and Canal Street to the West. This area represents an assemblage of natural, historic, educational, and recreational resources. It is a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape that is worthy of preservation through the heritage area designation. Figure 1 below is a map of the study area with congressional district boundaries.



**Figure 1. Black Metropolis Study Area with Legislative District Boundaries**



# The 2022 Update

Adding to our story is the recently designated Pullman National Monument on its way to becoming a national park. The Pullman story is enhanced with the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum ([aprpullmanportermuseum.org](http://aprpullmanportermuseum.org)), which interprets the contribution that the Pullman Porters played in the Great Migration and in national labor history. Its famed visitor center opened in the summer of 2021.

The Ida B. Wells monument was dedicated in 2021 highlighting the work of the journalist and Civil Rights icon as part of a national and international story. Ida's home, honorary street and marker on the site of the Ida B. Wells Homes public housing are part of a Chicago effort to honor her work. This also includes the renaming of Congress Boulevard to Ida B. Wells Drive. We have quite a story to tell.

We have forged relationships with Chicago organizations such as Choose Chicago, the city's tourism center. We work with colleges and universities to provide interviews, tours and lectures for students and faculty, including Illinois Tech (Illinois Institute of Technology), University of Chicago, DePaul University, Roosevelt University, Northwestern University, Chicago College of Optometry, and more. We collaborate with Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC), Chicago History Museum, Civic Knowledge Project (University of Chicago), Bronzeville Historical Society, Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation, and Chicago Urban League.

We are working with the Rosenwald Schools National Park Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park Campaign ([rosenwaldpark.org](http://rosenwaldpark.org)). It is our hope that a visitor center can become a part of Bronzeville by virtue of the institutions that Rosenwald funded and supported.

## New Assets and Updates in the Study Area

The following tables and maps identify new assets in the study area and provide updates to assets identified in the original 2013 study. The first map (Figure 2) and table (Table 1) identify new assets that have been developed since publication of the 2013 study. The second map (Figure 3) and table (Table 2) were identified as significant assets in the 2013 study and have major updates worth noting. The tables use the same classification categories as those used in the original study including: Arts & Culture, Business & Entrepreneurial Pursuits, Education, Industry & Labor, Health & Medicine, Military Life, Politics, Recreation & Professional Sports, Religion & Social Services, Social Activism & Civil Rights, Urban Design & Green Infrastructure.

**Table 1: New Assets in the Study Area**

Map#	Asset Name	Category	Description	Address
1	35 <sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge	Urban Design & Green Infrastructure	The bridge was completed in 2016 and connects the Bronzeville community to the lakefront to the east over South Lake Shore Drive and several railroad tracks.	3500 S. Lake Shore Drive
2	1919 Race Riots Markers	Social Activism & Civil Rights	The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project comprises a series of markers that pay tribute to those killed in the 1919 events. Fourteen markers are now installed, with a total of 38 anticipated upon completion. The markers are located at the sites where the deaths occurred.	Various, 29 <sup>th</sup> Street and the Lake
3	Boxville Marketplace	Business & Entrepreneurial Pursuits	This business incubator, marketplace, and outdoor community event space is fashioned from re-purposed shipping containers. The project started in 2014 with the “Bike Box” and has grown to include 17 containers with space for 20 local businesses operating year-round.	330 E. 51 <sup>st</sup> Street
4	Bronzeville Artists Lofts	Arts & Culture	The \$5.9 million renovation of a long-vacant commercial building now includes 16 live-work spaces for artists and 12,200 square feet of ground-floor commercial space. Opened in 2014.	436 E. 47 <sup>th</sup> Street
5	Bronzeville Trail (proposed)	Urban Design & Green Infrastructure	The Bronzeville Trail Taskforce envisions the creation of a 2-mile linear park on the abandoned Kenwood “L” line embankment running from Kenwood Avenue and 40 <sup>th</sup> Street on the West terminating at Lake Park Ave and 41 <sup>st</sup> Street and connecting to the 41 <sup>st</sup> Street pedestrian bridge to the Lakefront.	40 <sup>th</sup> and Kenwood Avenue
6	Bronzeville Walk of Fame	Arts & Culture	More than 100 neighborhood residents are celebrated on the Bronzeville Walk of Fame. They include civil rights activist Ida B Wells, poet Gwendolyn Brooks, and astronaut Robert H Lawrence, Jr. The bronze plaques are on medians, sidewalks, and crosswalks and are located along ten blocks. The monument to the Great Northern Migration at 26 <sup>th</sup> Pl. and Victory Monument at 35 <sup>th</sup> St. frame the permanent outdoor exhibit.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive between 25 <sup>th</sup> -35 <sup>th</sup> Street
7	Ida B. Wells Monument	Social Activism & Civil Rights	The Light of Truth Ida B. Wells National Monument by sculptor Richard Hunt was completed, installed, and dedicated in 2021. It is a large metal and stone modern structure with a plaque, resembling an abstracted flame.	3729 S. Langley Avenue





**Table 1: New Assets in the Study Area**

Map#	Asset Name	Category	Description	Address
8	Lillian Marcie Theater	Arts & Culture	Plans to transform the historic former Marshall Field & Company Warehouse Stable from 1904 into the Lillian Marcie Theatre advanced with a \$3 million City of Chicago grant awarded in October 2021. The \$13.5 million arts complex will have a 350-seat main theater, a 100-set black box theater, and house the African American Museum of Performing Arts. The developer is renown actor Harry Lennix.	4343 S. Cottage Grove Avenue
9	Muddy Waters Home/MOJO Museum (Muddy Original Jam Out)	Arts & Culture	McKinley Morganfield's home was granted Chicago Landmark status in 2021 (protecting it from demolition) and is slated to become a community museum honoring the blues legend. Photography, art, stories, and memorabilia of Muddy Waters would be featured. It will feature a recording studio, youth education programs, music instruction and sell Muddy-inspired merchandise.	4339 S. Lake Park Avenue
10	National Museum of Gospel Music (planned)	Arts & Culture	Plans are underway to make the former Pilgrim Baptist Church site the home of the National Museum of Gospel Music. The proposed 45,000 square foot museum will feature multigenerational programming and educational exhibits, an auditorium seating up to 350 designed for television production, a collection of video archives including the Stellar Gospel Music Awards programming, a listening and research library.	3301 S. Indiana Avenue
11	Obama Presidential Center	Art & Culture	Groundbreaking occurred in September 2021 on the Obama Presidential Center and will comprise the official presidential archives, library and museum, a branch of the Chicago Public library, and several gathering spaces in 200,000 to 250,000 square feet.	6401 S. Stony Island Avenue
12	Obsidian House/ Justice D. Harry Hammer/Lutrelle 'Lu' & Jorja Palmer Mansion	Business & Entrepreneurial Pursuits	Historic mansion purchased in 2021 by The Obsidian Collection a non-profit with plans to restore the structure and turn it into an archive, museum and private club, The Obsidian House.	3656 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive



**Table 1: New Assets in the Study Area**

<b>Map#</b>	<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Address</b>
13	Williams Park Field House	Recreation & Professional Sports	Construction of a new 11,200 sf fieldhouse building of a striking contemporary design. The improvements include entry lobby and reception area, gymnasium with storage and multipurpose club rooms for art, education, performances, meetings and exercise. Site improvements include a new spray pool, bike racks, landscaping, exterior lighting, and concrete sidewalks and benches.	2820 S. State Street
14	Provident Hospital	Health & Medicine	A new dialysis center opened in March of 2021 and plans for the larger \$240 million new facility are currently delayed due to the Corona virus pandemic. Cook County plans for the new building to be located to the west of the current, historic 1891 hospital structure.	550 E. 51st Street





Figure 2. New Assets in the Black Metropolis Study Area



**Table 2: Updates to Assets in the Study Area**

<b>Map #</b>	<b>Asset Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Address</b>
15	Bee Branch of the Chicago Public Library (CPL)	Education	In 2018 the CPL completed updates to the branch totaling \$2.32 million. It includes two additional floors with a new digital youth media lab for teens and adults and a dedicated early childhood area.	3647 S. State Street
16	Camp Douglas	Military Life	In winter 2020 the board of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation announced plans to create exhibits for a pop-up “traveling museum” they also applied for a battlefield preservation planning grant from the National Park Service (NPS). Although this grant was denied in 2021, they do plan to revise the application based on feedback from the NPS and reapply in 2022.	31st -33rd Place and S. Cottage Grove-S. Giles Avenues
17	The Forum	Arts & Culture	Urban Juncture is developing plans to restore the building, in 2020 the roof over Forum Hall was replaced. They received a State of IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity incubator grant to rehab the first-floor retail storefronts. Building on this success, the owner has begun the design process for the complete restoration of The Forum as an entertainment and hospitality venue.	318 E. 43rd Street
18	George P. Hall Branch of the Chicago Public Library	Education	In 2021 CPL created a new website landing page for its digital collections, as well as a redesigned website landing page for Chicago history. Collections include the George Cleveland Hall Branch Digital Collection.	4801 S Michigan Avenue
19	South Side Community Art Center	Arts & Culture	The organization recently celebrated its 80th anniversary and was awarded a National Trust “Hands-On Preservation Experience” grant which helped to restore historic windows and carry out exterior cleaning of the 1899 building.	3831 S. Michigan Avenue
20	Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal	Religion & Social Services	In the last several years, the congregation has completed millions in capital improvement and restoration projects including all new electrical service, air conditioning, an elevator and American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility, a basement archive and museum space, wired conference rooms, and a new roof.	2401 S. Wabash Avenue
21	Rosenwald Courts (Michigan Boulevard Garden Apartments)	Urban Design & Green Infrastructure	Multiple award-winning renovation and restoration of this historic early 20 <sup>th</sup> century art deco 239-unit residential complex was completed in 2016. It was home to Nat King Cole, Duke Ellington and Lorraine Hansberry, among other notable residents.	4642 S. Michigan Avenue





Figure 3. Updated Assets in the Black Metropolis Study Area



# Portrayal of Partnership Commitments

The table below is a summary of commitments that partners are willing to contribute to the successful implementation of the Black Metropolis National Heritage Area. (Originally listed as Appendix 4 in the 2013 study.) We are so pleased to share that a wide variety of partners will collaborate with the BMNHA to plan and execute programs, exhibits, tours, help to conduct fundraisers, and commit to making in-kind and financial contributions.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Commitment of Resources</b>	<b>TA/Education Commitment</b>
Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC)	Host annual symposium, commission research papers, award grants to scholars	\$10,000 value of in-kind symposium costs	Work with BMRC member groups: DePaul University; Chicago History Museum on archival project
Bronzeville Community Development Partnership	Financial and Fundraising partner	Chicago Community Trust Grant \$15,000	Development of management plan for NHA; increase fundraising with ongoing appeals
Bronzeville Historical Society	Develop and conduct tours, exhibits and education programs	Support and outreach to community for archival project	Reciprocal referrals for international destination tourism
Calumet Heritage Area	Part of larger footprint that tells the story of the Great Migration	In-kind funding and support	Reciprocal educational and tourism opportunities in conjunction with Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal Corridor NHA
Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation	Develop and conduct tours, interpretation materials	Support for NHA and committed outreach to legislators	Mutually planned and executed seminar on archeological discoveries in Bronzeville; paper by Dr. Gregory and Dr. Peterson
Chicago History Museum	Programmatic partner	Lending and licensing archival materials at no cost	Curatorial assistance with exhibits
Chicago Urban League (CUL)	Resource development partner	Host and co-produce annual fundraising event	Annual tour for CUL Impact fellows





**Table 3: Summary of Recent Partnership Commitments**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Commitment of Resources</b>	<b>TA/Education Commitment</b>
Emmett Till Home and Museum	Programmatic partner	Reciprocal funding assistance from NHA funds	Develop tours and exhibition materials
Illinois College of Optometry	Partner in community	Liaison with Community Affairs department	Lecture/presentation to new students and tours of neighborhood
Illinois Tech (Illinois Institute of Technology)	Partner in community	Liaison with Community Affairs department	Veteran's Day virtual presentation Blacks in Military History; Black History Month schools presentation
Obama Foundation	Destination tourism partner	Resource development	Community programming regarding the Great Migration for educators and schools
Pullman National Monument	Part of larger footprint that tells the story of the Great Migration	Working together to promote destination tourism by sharing information and resources	Integration into tour itineraries and referrals for visits
Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal	Programming partner in community; Underground Railroad stop and great migration refuge	Working together to promote destination tourism by sharing information and resources	Integration into tour itineraries and referrals for visits
Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Park Campaign	Interpretation of historic buildings in Bronzeville with connection to Julius Rosenwald's role in supporting the growth of the Black Metropolis	Support for prospective center in Bronzeville or Chicago (other location)	Development of tour and program on the possibility of National Park center being in Bronzeville
South Side Community Art Center (SSCAC)	Program partner	Support for SSCAC will be incorporated into management plan	Incorporate into tours and reciprocal programs

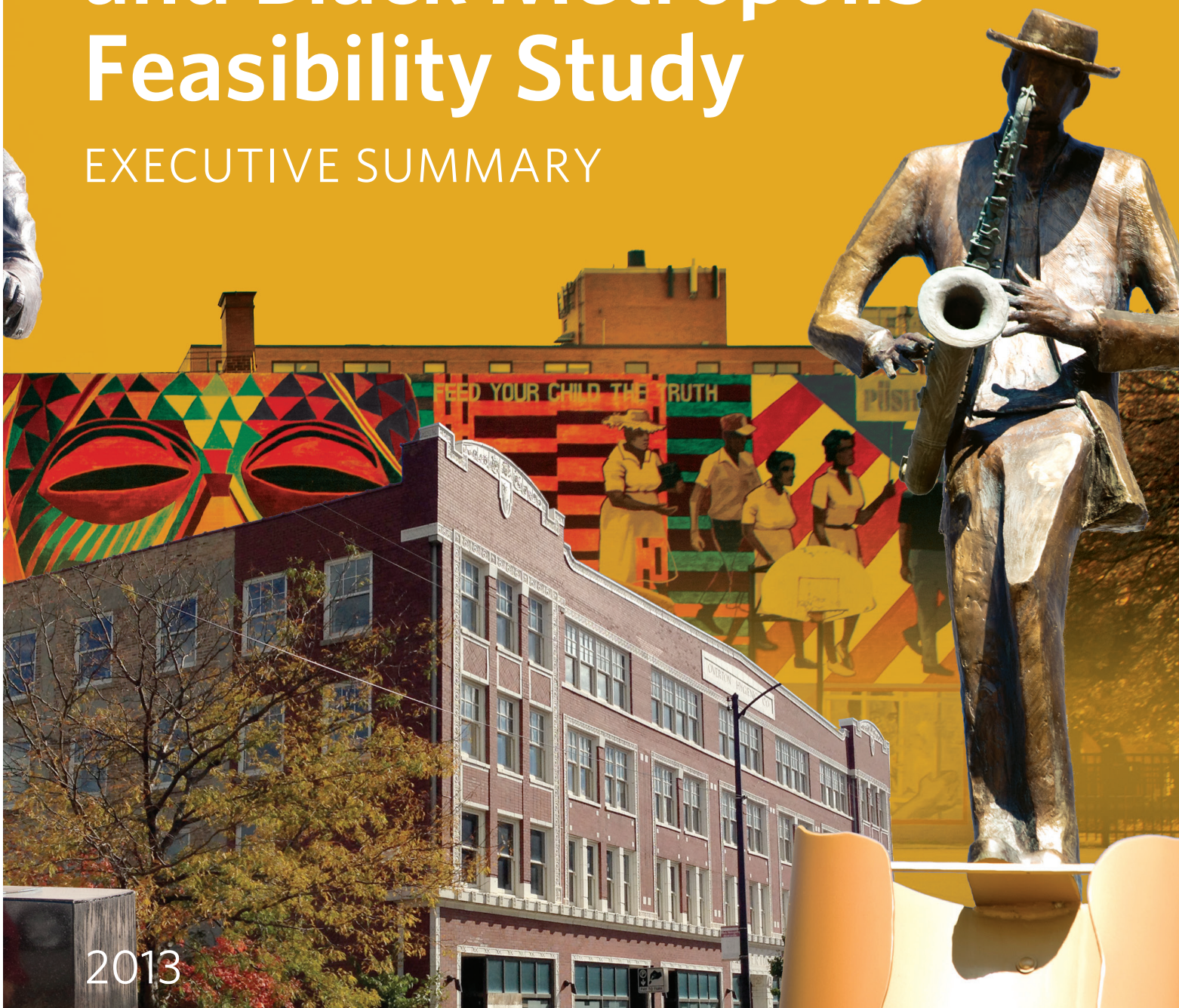


CMAP



# Great Migration and Black Metropolis Feasibility Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2013

## Executive Summary

The purpose of the Black Metropolis-Bronzeville National Heritage Area Feasibility Study is to support the designation of a National Heritage Area (NHA) on Chicago's mid-South Side, a heritage area which tells the story of African-Americans' struggle and perseverance during the Great Migration and beyond. The African-Americans who moved to the South Side of Chicago in the early 1900s left a lasting legacy in the community, Chicago, and is an important chapter in our nation's history. The impact the Great Migration had on Chicago has been well documented by scholars, historians, and local residents who, in some cases, remember what it was like to walk the Stroll, the center of the Black community, enveloped by music, nightlife, and a bustling business community.

During the Great Migration thousands of African-American migrants moved to the North, coming by train, foot, and car to escape the intense oppression of the South. Northern cities, like Chicago, were touted as places of great opportunity. While the North was far from paradise, there was room for African-Americans to obtain an education and create a cultural and economic mecca for themselves. This mecca is what this study refers to as the Black Metropolis; it was a place to see and be seen, a community that was home to a who's who of Black America. It was a place that cultivated a number of African-American firsts, which included such names as Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, Jesse Binga, Ida B. Wells, Jack Johnson, Nat King Cole, Mahalia Jackson, John Johnson, and Muddy Waters – professionals, entrepreneurs and artists who have made important contributions to our nation.

NHAs are important not only because they highlight the history of the founding of America and invaluable natural resources; heritage areas also recognize the people and cultural resources that have helped make America what it is today. The story of African-American migration to the North, and to Chicago's South Side, is a part of many individuals' and families' histories. African-American pioneers during the Great Migration fought for much of what many take for granted today. They influenced not only music, arts and culture, politics and civil rights and social activism, but they paved the way for African-American business and entrepreneurial pursuits and successes.

The criteria for national heritage area designation are not insignificant, and neither are the results of this study. While the writing of this feasibility study has taken a year, the community has put forth decades of their time and energy to garner support for heritage area designation. The study area is eight-and-a-half square miles and located completely within the City of Chicago. Within these boundaries there are over 200 assets – buildings, collections, people, environmental resources, and more – that, when considered collectively, exhibit a compelling story of what it was like to be an African-American during the Great Migration. From the roots of gospel music to the 2008 election of Barack Obama, the Black Metropolis-Bronzeville community has played a significant role in the nation's history. Together local residents, businesses, community-based organizations, institutions, government entities, and others have



come together to support this feasibility study, and ultimately the area's designation as a national heritage area.

The interpretation of the story of African-American history during the Great Migration is a critical component to the education of Americans no matter what their race. The Black Metropolis-Bronzeville area possesses much more than is learned in school about the history of African-Americans after slavery. By fostering understanding and learning across racial and cultural lines, we as Americans become better equipped to work with one another. The strength and commitment of the Black Metropolis-Bronzeville community, its physical assets, and the opportunity to share them is the reason why the Black Metropolis-Bronzeville area is worthy of NHA designation.

Upon completion, this Feasibility Study will be shared with partners to confirm their support, so that they can continue to work together to develop a conceptual financial plan outlining the roles for all participants and the federal government.

## **Purpose of the feasibility study**

This Feasibility Study has been undertaken by the [Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission](#) (Commission), the Bronzeville Community Development Partnership (the Partnership), along with numerous community partners. Technical assistance was provided by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) [Local Technical Assistance \(LTA\) program](#) and the [City of Chicago Department of Housing and Economic Development](#) (DHED) and its [Historic Preservation Division](#) (HPres). This Feasibility Study seeks to explore a number of important factors which will inform the National Park Service (NPS) as it considers designation of the study area as a National Heritage Area (NHA). Moreover, this study seeks to determine whether NHA designation is the best way to achieve coordinated conservation, preservation, education, and economic goals of the community, with the hope that these efforts will prove that the Black Metropolis is qualified for designation as a NHA by the United States Congress.

The Feasibility Study is organized into eight chapters. Below is a description of what can be found in each chapter. The full Feasibility Study can be found online at: [www.blackmetropolisnha.com/](http://www.blackmetropolisnha.com/) or at [www.cmap.illinois.gov/bmnha](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/bmnha).

### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

This chapter provides an overview of the Feasibility Study and the process by which this study has been developed.

### **Chapter 2: Study Area History and Contributions**

This chapter describes the history of the people and landscape of the Black Metropolis from the 1800s to present day. It discusses the people, places, and ideas that have influenced Chicago and America's history.

### **Chapter 3: Themes**

Building off the study area history and contributions, Chapter 3 lays out the interpretive themes that this heritage area should focus on in its first few years of development.



#### **Chapter 4: Affected Environment**

This chapter describes resources in the study area and the potential impacts of the proposed interpretive themes. Future projects undertaken within the heritage area will require further evaluation when the design and project implementation details are more fully defined.

#### **Chapter 5: Management Alternatives**

This chapter describes three alternative management approaches for the implementation of the heritage area goals. It covers the proposed organizational structure of the coordinating entity, implementation strategies and actions, potential partners, possible funding opportunities, and early implementation activities.

#### **Chapter 6: Application of Interim NHA Criteria**

This chapter discusses each criterion and evaluates the potential for heritage area designation.

#### **Chapter 7: Vision Statement**

Based on public input and engagement, the vision statement of the proposed heritage area is described in detail in this chapter.

#### **Chapter 8: Impact Assessment**

This chapter describes the anticipated impacts related to the various management alternatives. It also addresses the potential impacts of identified management alternatives described in Chapter 4.

### **What are National Heritage Areas?**

National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Heritage areas tell nationally important stories that celebrate our nation's diverse heritage. NHAs are lived-in landscapes. Consequently, NHA entities collaborate with communities to determine how to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs.

NHAs are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Leveraging funds and long-term support for projects, NHA partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

NHAs are not national park units. Rather, NPS partners with, provides technical assistance, and distributes matching federal funds from Congress to NHA entities. NPS does not assume ownership of land inside heritage areas or impose land use controls.<sup>1</sup>

For more information on national heritage areas, visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/>

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<sup>1</sup> From <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/FAQ/>

## **Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study is to provide the NPS with information regarding the appropriateness of designating Chicago's Black Metropolis area as a NHA. Located within the greater Bronzeville community, the Black Metropolis NHA would establish a framework within which residents, community organizations, local institutions, businesses, and elected officials will work together to interpret the area's distinctive landscape, history and culture of the Black Metropolis, and the story of the Great Migration. The ultimate goal of the NHA will be to focus on tourism and economic development, building upon the community's existing education and cultural tourism resources.

After designation, the first step in the process will be to establish a coordinating entity, which will connect various organizations seeking to share, educate, and interpret the history of Bronzeville; organizations that seek to improve quality of life in the community; and organizations looking to promote the area to visitors and prospective investors to ensure that future development in Bronzeville is informed by its rich history and cultural legacy. The coordinating entity will assist in preserving and protecting the historic sites, neighborhoods, and cultural artifacts of Chicago's Black Metropolis and Great Migration period. It will also promote the area's history and reinforce the accomplishments of Chicago's African-Americans to current and future generations.

## **Study process**

The process to develop this study was informed by nearly two decades of coalition-building led by community-based organizations, specifically the Bronzeville Community Development Partnership (the Partnership) and the Bronzeville Visitor Information Center (BVIC). These two organizations are not-for-profit organizations located in the heart of the present-day Black Metropolis. They have collaborated for many years to pursue a number of goals, one of which is authenticating the importance of the Black Metropolis to our nation's history by seeking NHA designation.

The Partnership is a collaboration of nine community-based organizations, local institutions, and neighborhood businesses that serve as partners and advisors who represent a broad spectrum of social, cultural, and tourism interests throughout the community. The Partnership's purpose is to advance Bronzeville's profile as a destination for cultural and heritage tourism, and to ensure that tourism and any associated development contributes to local sustainability.

## **Study area**

The Black Metropolis study area is located in the greater Bronzeville community of the City of Chicago, approximately five miles south of downtown. The general boundaries are; 18th Street to the North, 71st Street to the South, Lake Michigan to the East, and Canal Street to the West. (See Figure 1). This area represents an assemblage of natural, historic, educational, and recreational resources. It is a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape that is worthy of preservation through the heritage area designation. The area includes a number of Chicago community areas, including the following: Armour Square, Douglas, Fuller Park, Grand Boulevard, Greater Grand Crossing, Kenwood, Near South Side, Oakland, Washington Park, and Woodlawn.

Figure 1. Study Area

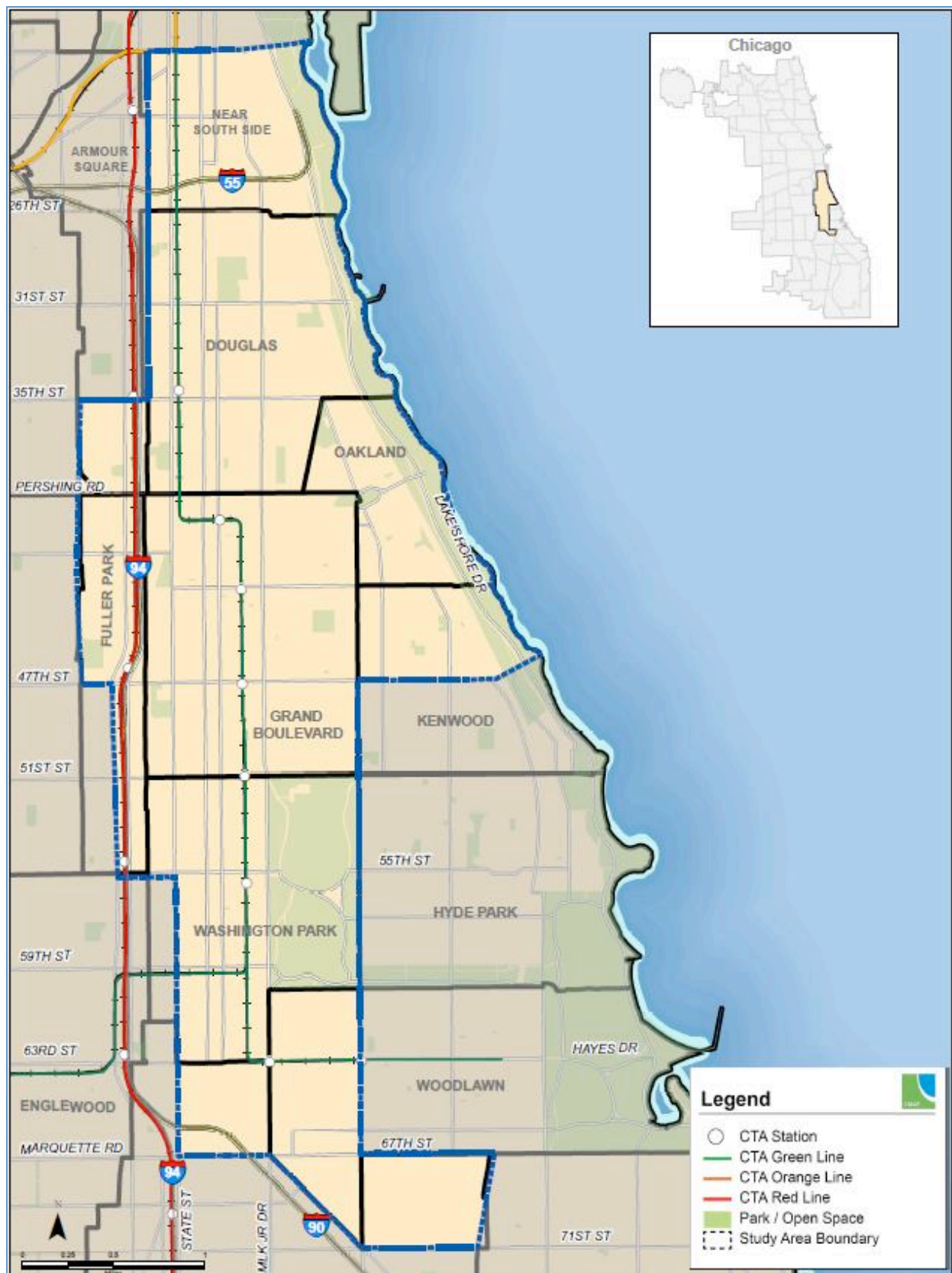




Figure 2. Existing Black Metropolis Heritage Assets by Theme

